

WORLEY SPOILS WANDERERS GOOD CONDUCT RECORD

First Wycombe player sent off in Isthmian League

Wycombe Wanderers 1, Walthamstow Avenue 2

WYCOMBE WANDERERS effervescent outside-right Len Worley made history on Saturday. He became the first Wanderers player to be sent off in the senior section of the Isthmian League since the club joined the competition in 1921-22.

Wycombe 1 Walthamstow 2

AFTER TRAILING almost from the start, Walthamstow sprang to life in the last half-hour to snatch the Isthmian League points.

Wycombe took the lead after 10 minutes through Barry Baker and kept the initiative in the first half. But faulty passing marred their approach work.

Walthamstow's revival began when left-winger Graham Collett equalised 20 minutes after the resumption, and the same player got the winner in the 73rd minute.

Temper flared near the end and Wycombe right-winger Len Worley was sent off.

Wanderers good conduct record disappeared in the 83rd minute, when Worley retaliated after appearing to be fouled from behind by Avenue's Jackson.

This tough, uncompromising battle exploded as Worley waited to receive a throw-in deep in the Walthamstow half by the Queen Victoria-road touchline.

As Len gathered the ball Jackson appeared to tackle him from behind, and the winger lashed out with his foot. Referee Mr. B. H. Daniels of Rainham, Essex, had no hesitation in pointing to the dressing room and Worley made the long trip across the field.

Mr. Daniels commented after the game: "I sent him off for violent conduct", but was not prepared to reveal any more about his report to the F.A. which arrived at Lancaster Gate, first post Monday morning.

What of the game itself? First of all Mr. Daniels' handling of the match left a lot to be desired, often ignoring the most blatant of fouls committed right in front of him.

4-2-4 FORMATION

In the first half Wycombe, reverting to their 4-2-4 formation which they tried early on in the season, threatened to overrun Walthamstow.

With Barry Baker providing the main link, a job which he does so splendidly, Wycombe moved with fire and enthusiasm often unsettling the hard-tackling Avenue defence.

Wycombe, without Horseman who was sitting on the touchline in Portmaddoc watching England's amateurs lose to Wales, raced into the lead in the ninth minute. From a defensive break Samuels supplied the pass for Baker to have a shot charged down. Gale pounced on the rebound and gave Baker another chance which he gratefully accepted slotting the ball between 'keeper Lindsay and the right hand post.

This was just the tonic goal Wanderers needed and they pressed forward looking to increase their goal tally. Viv Busby displayed some neat touches in mid-field and was unlucky with one good effort which Lindsay did well to save.

The defence looked far tighter than in recent weeks. Vince Faulkner and Ian Rundle played alongside one another in a double centre-half plan, while newcomer Brian Voulsen settled in quickly at left-back in his first senior outing since joining the club.

Just before half-time Merrick had two glorious opportunities of putting Wycombe further ahead—but he wasted both of them. On the run of play Wanderers had created enough chances to have the game sewn up after 45 minutes.

There was no hint of the transformation about to materialise as Wycombe still held the initiative early in the second period.

Voulsen made a glorious 30-yard dash to put Busby through the middle but the inside-left's drive sneaked inches wide of the left hand post.

Slowly Walthamstow came to grips with the game, and after 70 minutes equalised. Maskell could only parry P. Collett's effort and B. Collett tapped the rebound home.

The Collett brothers set-up Walthamstow's winning goal eleven minutes later. A hard drive from P. Collett was kicked off the line by Faulkner and from an acute angle B. Collett netted.

Two minutes later followed the Worley incident. As so often happens nowadays, the player who retaliates is dismissed from the field, while the instigator escapes. Wycombe: J. Maskell; J. Beck, B. Voulsen; V. Faulkner, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, V. Busby, L. Merrick.